

---

# COMMITTEE STUDY

---

SEPTEMBER

## Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for calling us to serve you,  
and to lead a congregation for those so in need of your love and grace.  
You've called us to be a place where people can live in love,  
and where people can experience your presence.  
So be with us as we make decisions tonight.  
Help us to seek your wisdom over mere human wisdom,  
your logic over common logic,  
and your guidance over the guidance of convention and convenience.  
Help us to be your servants serving collaboratively and cooperatively,  
seeking unity of heart and mind,  
so that we can lead our church with your guidance, grace, and love. Amen

## Jeffery Olsen, *Knowing*

When hope and faith have waned, and only despair remains, we are perhaps in our most beautiful state. It is in this space that complete trust arises, and a willingness to accept what is, and be honest about it...

I used to believe God was testing me in some way and wanted me to prove my faith somehow. I have come to a deeper truth; God isn't testing me at all. God knows me perfectly. It was *me* who didn't know myself. We come from perfect love, and we will return to it someday, but for now, we love imperfectly, beautifully flawed in this lower dimension. Yet our skinned knees and scraped palms are not signs of shame, but rather badges of courage for having come to play the game. We are beautiful in our brokenness and perfect in chaos regardless of the judgments we may put on it. Each moment is sacred. Each moment is a gift. Life is not a test. It is a gift.

Every little thing is of the light, there is divine order in every single experience and every soul who crosses my path... Being open to that divine gift in each moment is what brings life profound meaning.

## Discussion Questions:

- What keeps us from seeing life as a gift rather than a test?
- How can we lead the church to be a place that is of the light, and the nurtures people to see life as a gift?

